



February 27, 2013

Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Michigan business community, which includes the Michigan Business and Professional Association, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, SBAM, the Grand Rapids Chamber, and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, collectively representing over 100,000 employers statewide, ask for your **support in appropriating the \$30 million federal grant funding available to lay the ground work for establishing a health insurance market place for our state-federal partnership plan.**

Our groups did not support the formation of PPACA, and lobbied strongly against it. Despite our actions and the final outcome, it is the law of the land. We are moving forward to help our members, the business community, prepare for their future and give them the tools they need.

We believe that Michigan should be granted as much decision making power allowable by the federal healthcare law, which would be to establish a state-based exchange here in Michigan. Although, that is not the path our state has chosen, we still need to appropriate the \$30 million in grant funding that has recently become available to begin our operations as a state-federal partnership, to comply with federal law.

We all understand that appropriating the federal grant monies in no way ties our state to any permanent healthcare decisions; it merely gives us much needed revenue to begin technical compliance, while saving our General Fund dollars. We understand the political ramifications in supporting this grant, but ask you to look beyond that and do what is best for Michigan. The time to act is now. This is the last remaining option we have for Michigan to maintain some control over decisions made in regards to our healthcare. Please support the supplemental appropriating the \$30 million in federal funding our state desperately needs.

Sincerely,

Andy Johnston, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Bonnie Bochniak, Michigan Business and Professionals Association
Wendy Block, Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Delaney McKinley, Michigan Manufacturers Association
Dave Jessup, Small Business Association of Michigan